

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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S-E-C-R-E-T

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 20px;"></div>	25X1
SUBJECT	Shortages in East German Industry	DATE DISTR.	28 April 1955	
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1. The East German machine and electro-machine construction industry suffers from a serious shortage of ductile sheet metal (Tiefziehblech) particularly in thicknesses of 1.0; 1.2; 1.5; and 2.0 mm. The acute shortage was caused by the fact that the USSR has not honored import contracts concluded with East Germany in 1954. In February 1955, a number of enterprises producing automobiles and trucks had to close their body plants (Karosserieabteilung) because of the shortage of ductile sheet metal.
2. Another serious bottleneck is the shortage of insulation paper for enterprises producing electro-technical equipment. In particular, cable insulation paper of 80 grams weight per square meter is in very short supply. VEB Papierfabrik Finow near Eberswalde has only one machine for the fabrication of cable insulation paper and cannot meet East German industrial demand. Another enterprise in Torgelow for the fabrication of cable insulation paper, which has been under construction for two years and which was to start operations in 1954, has not been able to start production because of the lack of special ball bearings for the paper machines.

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